

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re application of: Karl REINITZ Application Number: Filed: For: SURGICAL SUTURING APPARATUS | Art Unit: Examiner: Attorney Docket Number: 0121 |
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22312-1450

Sir:

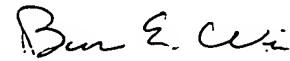
Attached hereto are Form PTO/SB/08A and Form PTO/SB/08B, each listing documents believed relevant to the subject application. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner consider these documents and return an initialed copy of each form to the undersigned.

A copy of each listed document is enclosed. Some of the documents may have markings thereon. The applicant does not intend that any significance be attached to these markings. These documents are not necessarily analogous art.

The applicant believes that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 609. If for some reason the examiner believes otherwise, the applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned be contacted so that any deficiencies can be remedied. This disclosure

statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 26 November 2003

Bruce E. Weir
Registration No. 48,191

Bruce E. Weir
Attorney at Law
12 Sparrow Valley Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
Telephone: (301) 977-6009
Facsimile: (301) 977-6009
E-mail: bweir@bruceweir.com

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Sheet

1

of

2

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

REINITZ

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

0121

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>) | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
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| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>) | | | | |
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Sheet 2of 2

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Attorney Docket Number 0121**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number <small>Number-Kind Code² (if known)</small> | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document <small>Country Code³-Number⁴-Kind Code⁵ (if known)</small> | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
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| | | | | First Named Inventor | REINITZ |
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| | | | | Examiner Name | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 0121 |

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | | | T ² |
| | AA | AUTHOR UNKNOWN, "Inlet CloSure Procedure Kit," sales brochure for Inlet Medical Inc., publication date unknown. | | | | |
| | AB | ELASHRY, "Comparative Study of Pirt-Closure Techniques Following Laparoscopic Surgery," Journal of the American College of Surgeons, 1996, 183:335-344. | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | |
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